~~A.~~1. Community Participation

Members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend public meetings of the School Board to observe its deliberations. The School Board welcomes community members to provide comments at its regular business meetings and public hearings on school board deliberations, school related issues or particular topics as delineated below. This is an opportunity for the School Board to hear the thoughts of our community so the School Board members will listen to these comments but will not engage with speakers during the public participation section of the meeting. Accommodations will be provided for access barriers, including but not limited to language, ability, and assistive technology needs.

1) **Regular Meetings**

a) Public Participation

i) *Registration Process:*

Fairfax County and City residents, FCPS staff, FCPS students, FCPS guardians who are non-Fairfax County residents, and FCPS business partners who want to address the School Board, may register to speak by submitting a request online at ~~6:00~~8:00 a.m. starting on the fourth business day before the next regular business meeting, or by calling the School Board office at 571-423-1075 during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting on the **fourth business day** before the next regular business meeting.

When signing up for a potential speaking slot, students will indicate if their name will be read aloud at the meeting and publicly displayed. Students who do not want their name used will check a box to opt out.

Speakers who wish to submit prerecorded video testimony must register online and are strongly encouraged to submit their video at the time of registration.

Speakers must identify at the time of registration whether they wish to testify live in-person, with live virtual video, or submit a prerecorded video testimony.

Once an option is selected, this choice cannot be changed. The registration process closes **48 hours** before the meeting.

ii) *Speaker Slots*:

Speaker	Number of Space Reserved
Student (in person or virtual)	3
Individual (in person or virtual)	10
Video Testimony	3

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~~There will be a total of 16 in-person, live virtual, and prerecorded video speaker slots per regular meeting. Thirteen of these 16 slots will be reserved for in-person and live virtual speakers.~~

~~Three of these 16 slots will be reserved for those speakers who wish to submit a prerecorded video.~~

Three of the in-person or live virtual speaker slots shall be reserved for current FCPS students. Testimony must be given directly by the student unless the student requires support.

Current students are eligible to be selected for any of the in-person, live virtual, or prerecorded video spots.

iii) *Selection of Speakers:*

After the registration process closes, speakers will be determined by a random lottery process if there are more than 3 student speakers, more than 10 individual speakers (in-person or virtual), and/or more than 3 people signed up for pre-recorded testimony. ~~After the lottery or random process is complete,~~ Sspeakers will be notified they have received a speaking or prerecorded video spot and will be listed on the public participation list. Students are given priority in the order of speakers.

Unused prerecorded video slots do not revert to the pool of in-person or live virtual video testimony slots. Student slots will not revert to be available for individuals until the registration for walk-ins has begun.

This list of speakers will be posted with the Board meeting agenda.

iv) *Speaker Waitlist:*

A speaker waitlist will be created if there are enough speakers to necessitate the lottery process. After the first 13 in-person or live virtual speakers are determined through the random/lottery process, the next ten (10) names as determined by the same random/lottery will be chosen as the waitlist and notified that they are on the waitlist to speak. Prerecorded video submissions will not be permitted for the waitlist. Waitlist speakers may only speak live in-person or using live virtual video, which they select at the time of registration. The waitlist will not be carried over to a future meeting. Speakers on this waitlist may fill unused in-person student or other in-person or live virtual video speaker slots, but not unused prerecorded video slots.

~~After speaking during the community participation portion of the regular meeting, whether giving in-person testimony, live virtual testimony, or through prerecorded video testimony, speakers may not register to speak at the next two regular meetings so that others may have an opportunity to participate. Those listed on the waitlist who were not selected to speak will be allowed to sign up to speak at the next regular meeting.~~

~~When the community participation or wait list slots are not filled prior to the start of the meeting, anyone present prior to the beginning of the meeting~~

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~~may sign up to fill these empty slots by approaching the Deputy Clerk of the School Board beginning at 6:30 p.m. until the meeting is called to order.~~

~~Testimony may not exceed two (2) minutes in length. The timer will be paused during interpretations for participants requiring such support or those using assistive technology. Upon request at the time of registration, Interpretation Services will be provided for speakers for whom English is not their preferred language and who will give testimony in a language other than English or who require services in another format. Speakers should submit their remarks to the Clerk in advance if possible.~~

~~For details about signing up to speak during public participation, visit: https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/community-participation.~~

b) Guidelines for Community Participation

After speaking during the community participation portion of the regular meeting, whether giving in-person testimony, live virtual testimony, or through prerecorded video testimony, speakers may not register to speak at the next two regular meetings so that others may have an opportunity to participate. Those listed on the waitlist who were not selected to speak will be allowed to sign up to speak at the next regular meeting.

When the community participation or wait list slots are not filled prior to the start of the meeting, anyone present prior to the beginning of the meeting, who has not spoken at the last two regular meetings, may sign up to fill these empty slots by approaching the Deputy Clerk of the School Board beginning at 6:30 p.m. until the meeting is called to order.

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Testimony may not exceed two (2) minutes in length. The timer will be paused during interpretations for participants requiring such support or those using assistive technology.

Upon request at the time of registration, Interpretation Services will be provided for speakers for whom English is not their preferred language and who will give testimony in a language other than English or who require services in another format. Speakers should submit their remarks to the Clerk in advance if possible.

For details about signing up to speak during public participation, visit: https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/community-participation.

Speaker substitutions are not permitted. A speaker may not yield their time to another individual before or during their remarks.

Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the School Board via email or by submitting one copy to the Deputy Clerk at the meeting for distribution to the Board. All written comments submitted to the Board become part of the public record and may be included on the School Board section of the FCPS website.

If a speaker registers for Community Participation but does not speak, the speaker will be eligible to speak at the next regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board.

c) Speaker Decorum and Expectations for Community Participation

Speakers should be respectful and observe proper decorum in their statements, avoiding profanity, inappropriate gestures, shouting, and comments that run counter to the spirit and letter of the FCPS non- discrimination policy. Comments targeting, criticizing, or attacking individual students are not permitted during public meetings. Complaints regarding school-based employees should be directed to the appropriate school principal or other school official. Speakers should refrain from using personally identifiable information in connection with an individual student or school-based employee. All statements should be directed to the School Board, and speakers should remain at the podium until concluding their remarks.

For safety reasons, signs brought into the meeting rooms must be no larger than 8 ½ X 11 inches, hand-held, made of paper and may not obstruct the view of others or block the entrance or exit of others. Signs may not be attached to the podium.

Inappropriately loud conversations or outbursts from those in attendance will not be tolerated and security staff will be asked to restore order.

~~Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the School Board via email or by submitting one copy to the Deputy Clerk at the meeting for distribution to the Board. All written comments submitted to the Board become part of the public record and may be included on the School Board section of the FCPS website.~~

~~c)~~d) Submission of Prerecorded Video Testimony

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Submission of prerecorded video testimony is intended to provide original statements to the School Board. Therefore, videos are limited to two (2) minutes in length and must be original content produced by the submitter.

Those wishing to submit prerecorded video testimony must make their request online at the time of registration. Speakers are strongly encouraged to include valid working

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links to their video testimony at the time of their registration, though these links may be submitted until **36 hours** before the Board meeting. Once a video is submitted, substitutions of videos are not allowed. For detailed guidelines on video submissions, ~~visit::~~visit: **www.fcps.edu/schoolboard.**

All video testimony must adhere to the same expectation for in-person participation that speakers deliver their statements with decorum and respect. Video testimony will be reviewed prior to the regular meeting to ensure compliance with the School Board Governance manual, Federal Communication Commission regulations, and all other applicable laws. The School Board Chair will make the final determination whether all video submissions comply with the above requirements.

Please note: Federal Communication Commission regulations govern all television broadcast material and prohibit copyright infringements, obscene, indecent, or profane content.
Videos that do not meet these standards will not be shown at a School Board meeting.

2) **Public Hearings**

Public Hearings may include:

Budget, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and Boundary Hearings

Public hearings are scheduled on specific topics by the Board at various times during the year.

a) Guidelines for Public Hearings:

All speakers at these hearings must limited their comments to two (2) minutes in length. Fairfax County and City residents, FCPS staff, FCPS students, FCPS guardians who are non-Fairfax County residents, and FCPS business partners who want to address the School Board, may register to speak at a public hearing in person or via live virtual video. No prerecorded videos will be allowed for public hearings. Speaker substitutions are not permitted for public hearings.

Five (5) public hearing speaker slots are reserved for individuals who have not registered in advance, to address the Board after registered speakers. To claim one of these five (5) slots, speakers must sign up with the Deputy Clerk before the meeting is called to order. The speaker must be present to register, one person may register for only one spot, and substitutions are not permitted.

The speakers list for public hearings will open at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing and shall be closed at 4:30 p.m. two workdays immediately preceding

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the day of the hearing for weekday hearings or at 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding a Saturday public hearing.~~shall be closed at 4:30 p.m. on the workday immediately preceding the day of the hearing for weekday hearings or at 4:30 p.m. on the Thursday preceding a Saturday public hearing~~. *[Code of VA §22.1-79 and §22.1-92].* For details about signing up to speak during public hearings, visit: **www.fcps.edu**

For safety reasons, signs brought into the meeting rooms must be no larger than 8 ½ X 11 inches, hand-held, made of paper and may not obstruct the view of others or block the entrance or exit of others. Signs may not be attached to the podium.

3) Other Communications

The opportunity to speak at regular business meetings and public hearings is only one way for people to present their views to the School Board. The Board welcomes correspondence, video submissions, and other communication from community members, and these communications may be presented to the Board by:

a) delivering or mailing such material to the School Board Office, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400, Falls Church, VA 22042,

b) email to: ~~citizenparticipation@fcps.edu~~CommunityParticipation@fcps.edu

c) via the FCPS website (fcps.edu).

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